SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL

uh-oh. zine comes to town.....

's another special edition of.....(wait for it).....

# CULTURE CRINGE

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## SPECIAL FANZINE COMMEMORATING ONE OF MY FAVORITE BANDS, THE TALKING HEADS

TRUE STORIES ABOUT BUILDINGS AND FOOD!!

THIS MUST BE THE ZINE !!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT - JUST STAY UP LATE AND HAVE NO COMPASSION !!

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME NEW FEELING THAT'LL LEAVE YOU CROSSEYED AND PAINLESS !!

IT'S FOR PEOPLE LIKE US !!

THIS IS NOT a history or recount of the story of the band **TALKING HEADS**, this is a personal journal about how they impacted my life…OK now that we got that out of the way, I guess I'll go ahead and spill the tea!! When I was a kid, **Talking Heads** (to me) were one of those bands that just blended in to all the other 80s bands that were played on the radio. I do have memories of hearing **Once in a LIfetime** for sure, but honestly at the time it didn't really resonate with me. The first time I recall being WOWed by the group probably would have been when I was around 12. I have a pretty specific memory of my brother playing their music in the house - but there is one particular moment that stayed with me. My mom took me and my brother to the mall one night and he put in a mix tape, and it had the **Stop Making Sense** live version of **Burning Down The House** on it. So, I had definitely heard that song before, I mean of course I had. But something about the wildness, the looseness of that version….it clicked with me. To me, it sounded like it was recorded in a small venue…like at the beginning where you hear Chris Frantz yell "got a match??", that sounded wild to me. Pretty sure that was the moment I became a fan.

## SAND IN THE VASELINE

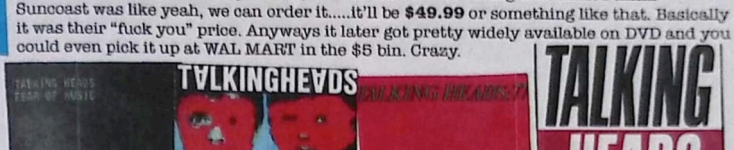
A couple of years later I have a VIVID memory of going to **Rivergate mall** on a summer Saturday and going to the record store there….I think it was **Camelot**. There was a display near the front door advertising the new Talking Heads "greatest hits" compilation called **Sand in the Vaseline**. It was a two CD or two cassette set, and even though it was a little expensive for me at the time I took all the cash I had and got the cassette version. I was STOKED. I had never really listened to any of their stuff besides the big hits so this was going to open up a whole world! I remember taking it home, going up to my room, and playing it front to back several times that day. I remember the skies were super super blue that day with big puffy clouds and the song **The Big Country** had a real effect on me. I had never really heard music like that before.

## STOP MAKING SENSE / STOP MAKING SENSE

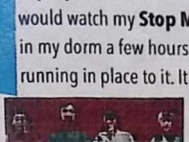
**There was this semi-shady VHS rental store in my hometown where we rented all our tapes. That store was a place of wonder to me and my friends because they carried some really REALLY risqué tapes - like ya know, stuff I shouldn't have had access to, and we could look at the boxes and see the art. Sometimes we'd go in there after school and see who could find the most outrageous looking movies, with boxes that had the most provocative pictures on the back. OK now that you got the picture - the reason I'm bringing this place up is because it had a pretty great music video section. Tons of concert films. When i was a little younger I rented this live Billy Joel tape OVER AND OVER AND OVER as well as Elton John - Live in Austrália. I wore them out. Well one day I was looking through them, and noticed a tape called Stop Making Sense. WAIT WHAT?? I didn't know that Talking Heads had a concert film out there, let alone available for rent in small-town Tennessee!!! I rented it SO fast. Ran home (yes, ran…..I walked everywhere when I was a kid) and put it in. I was BLOWN AWAY. Absolutely blown away! I watched it a few times before I had to take it back, but of course I just KNEW that I had to have my own copy. I convinced my mom to take me to the trusty old mall and sure enough, I found it at Suncoast. One problem. It was like, $35 or something. YEAH…..back then sometimes VHS tapes were pricey. I only had like $20. I begged my mom to help me out and she totally did. AHHHHH I had my own copy! OH and it should be said that by this point I had my own VCR in my room with the audio hooked up to a boom-box!!! I immediately dubbed the audio onto a cassette tape…..not knowing that you could actually BUY the concert on cassette or CD at the time. Oh well! I liked my copy haha.**

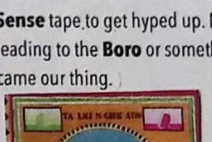
# TRUE STORIES / TRUE STORIES / TRUE STORIES

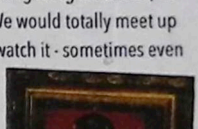
Sometime around 1994 I found out about the movie **TRUE STORIES**. I think I was reading one of those free magazines they used to give out at Tower Records.....I think they were called **Pulse**. **David Byrne** was on the cover, and in the interview it mentioned that movie. I HAD TO SEE IT. I had no idea what it was about, but didn't care. Off to the shady video store I went.....and let me tell you I HATED asking the guy that worked there if they had a certain movie. I would look for an hour before I'd finally ask. Well....I couldn't find it. So i asked. "Oh yeah," he said. "I got it - it's in the comedy section." COMEDY? Oh snap. He walked right to it and funny enough, I had seen that box sitting there many times before. I never realized it was a David Byrne movie. Took it home, called my friend Matt up, and we watched it that night. I LOVED IT, Matt was indifferent. I wanted to buy my own copy so bad, but couldn't find it during that time. I think Suncoast was like yeah, we can order it.....it'll be **$49.99** or something like that. Basically it was their "fuck you" price. Anyways it later got pretty widely available on DVD and you could even pick it up at WAL MART in the $5 bin. Crazy.




Alright lets fast forward a bit to college. By the time I went to college, of course I was way into indie rock and punk and alternative and whatnot. But even though I was all about being "current' with my musical taste, I can say that I never abandoned Talking Heads. I remember finally finding a copy of **More Songs About Buildings and Food** at the great **Digital Planet** the first time I went there. That album for some reason was the hardest to find - and FINALLY it was mine. Anyways when I was a freshman I started a band. When we would be getting ready for shows, we would watch my **Stop Making Sense** tape to get hyped up. No joke! We would totally meet up in my dorm a few hours before heading to the **Boro** or something and watch it - sometimes even running in place to it. It sorta became our thing.





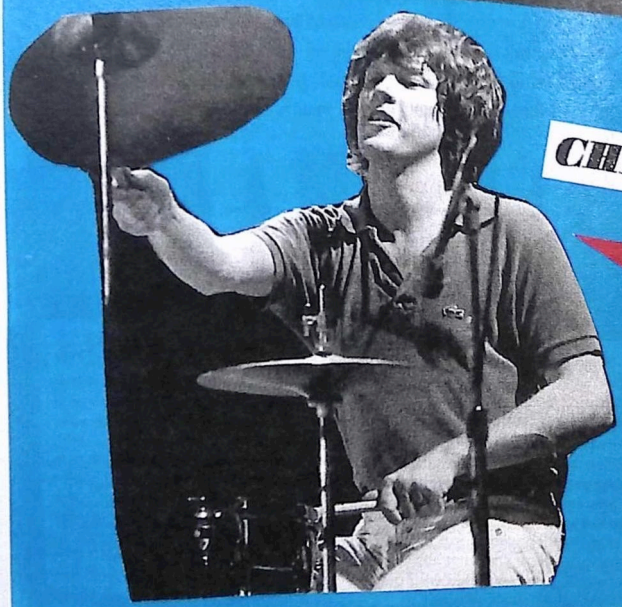


## THE NAME OF THIS BAND IS TALKING HEADS

One time around 1999 or so, I went to the old **Salvation Army** store that used to be in that huge shopping center where **Bargain Center** is now. I always found some GREAT stuff there. One particular day they were putting out some records, and it was a lot of good 80s stuff. A lot of it was SEALED. And yeah, back then records at Salvation Army were like, 25 cents each or something. Super cheap. Well I started picking through them and found the live album called **The Name Of This Band Is Talking Heads** - I had NEVER heard of that! Probably because it was way out of print. It was the coolest feeling finding that — something I didn't even know existed — in perfectly new condition! Well it's safe to say I wore that record out. It became my "have you heard THIS" record that I'd put on when people came over. And at the time nobody had... so it was like I had cracked some sort of code and found some forbidden recordings.

TALKING HEADS COLLECTIBLE PIN-UPS

DAVID



CHRIS

JERRY
TINA

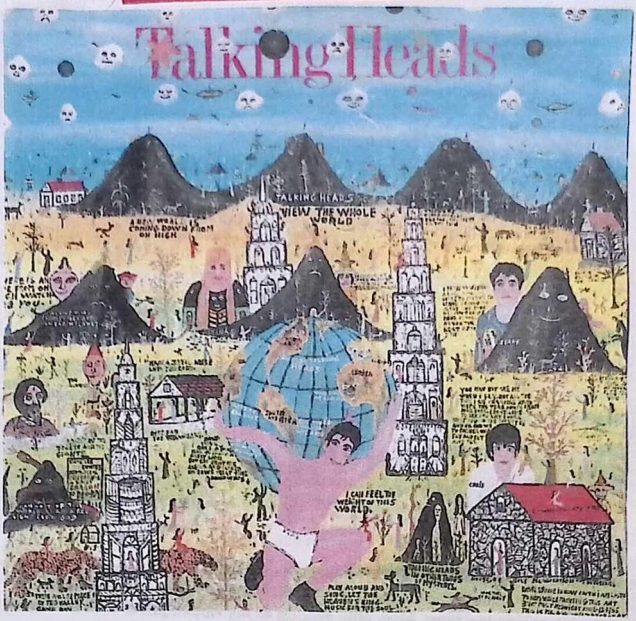
# TRUE STORIES / TRUE STORIES / TRUE STORIES

Time for the crazy story. In 2005 I was with my band in Los Angeles, we were basically killing time after a tour fell apart. We got a call from our friends in the band **The Pink Spiders** and they were out there recording some demos. They were like, hey come to the studio, you gotta see this place! So of course we went over…..turns out the studio was **Jim Henson Studios**: Studio A. The same studio that they recorded **We Are The World** at along with basically everything huge in the 80s. Holy cow! Getting through security took a minute and a couple of calls, but once we were in the compound it was crazy. Into the studio we went. Here's where it gets crazy…..they were recording with **Jerry Harrison** at the board. I freaked. Yep, Jerry Harrison had agreed to produce the demos with hopes that he could land the role of producer on their upcoming album (that job ultimately went to **Ric Ocasek** of **The Cars**.) SO, all the guys in my band and The Pink Spiders knew I was a huge Talking Heads fan, so they all went out into the tracking room while I stayed in the control room. I made my move. "Hey Jerry, I'm super glad that **The Name of this Band is Talking Heads** just got reissued - it's awesome!" His eyes lit up. "Oh yeah? You know that one, huh? Cool! Yeah, me and this guy right here remixed it in this studio, it was a blast." The guy he pointed to was **ET Thorngren**, a legendary engineer who had worked with the Talking Heads on **Stop Making Sense**, **Little Creatures**, and **True Stories.** How cool! Time for me to geek out and be a fanboy. I started talking to Jerry about all things Talking Heads, which he was super happy to do. I can't even begin to remember what all I told him. He told me that they were in the process of remixing ALL of the band's catalog in 5.1 surround sound, and he wanted to take me to the other studio so I could hear some of the mixes. WHAT!! It was getting crazy! He tried calling the studio to see if he could come in….no answer. Tried again thirty minutes or so later…..no answer. Darn, it didn't happen. Oh well, that's fine. We were straight up hanging out! At one point I noticed a **Steinberger** bass on the rack. I said something like "oh cool, that's like the one **Tina** played on a few songs on Stop Making Sense!" Jerry laughed and said "yeah cos it IS the one she played….it was mine! Here, try it out." Ok so now here I was plucking on that very bass I had seen so many times on video…..WHOA. We broke for lunch. I went out to hang with my friends and we were chilling in the lobby when the door to Studio B opened. I kid you not….**Paul fuckin' Stanley** walked out. Yes. Of **KISS**. Could this get any weirder?? Of course we approached him - we were in a safe place and he probably figured that if we were there, we were at least somebody trustworthy. He was SUPER cool to us. I'll give him that. We talked about KISS stuff for a good 10-15 minutes. We made a connection that the drummer for my band drove a station wagon that was once owned by the road manger of KISS. Fun. Paul was there recording his solo album **Live to Win**. The title song of that album would go on to live in infamy after being used in the **South Park "Make Love, Not Warcraft"** episode. After hanging out with Paul, we raided the kitchen for a bit. There, we met someone who asked "hey, have you guys been over to the **Muppet Factory** yet?" UH….NO? What's that?? Yeah, turns out that since we were at Jim Henson Studios, the fuckin Muppet Factory was next door….and NOT open to the public. But, if you were "working" in the studios there, you could go for a private tour. Well of course we did just that.

The Muppet Factory was insane. It had all kinds of film used puppets and props just laying around. We saw Harry from **Harry and The Hendersons**. Stuff from **The Dark Crystal**. I can't even remember what all was on display, it was kind of a trip. They led us into the "factory" part, where they worked on the props and muppets. There were some cats from the film **Cats and Dogs** just laying on tables, and I got to play with the triggers that made them move. They were working on muppets for the upcoming **Muppets of Oz** movie, and those were all just laying around. One lady picked up **Gonzo** (dressed as the **Tin Man**) and made him come to life, and it was insane. He instantly CAME TO LIFE. Super crazy!! Well, I'm way off topic - **this is supposed to be a Talking Heads zine.** Here I am talking about Gonzo. Regardless, hanging out with Jerry, meeting Paul fuckin' Stanley, and seeing the Muppet Factory on a private tour made for one of the coolest days of my life.

**PICTURED: Me (left) and Jerry Harrison (right). We had this thing where when someone asked how the MIX sounded, we would say AWESOME while doing a thumbs down. Cmon, it was funny at the time. Also, stop staring at my ripped jeans with the spandex peeking through. I did my best in the early 2000s.**

*The cover art for the album LITTLE CREATURES was drawn by folk artist HOWARD FINSTER. He lived in Summerville, GA and his home was open to the public as an art exhibit of sorts. Even though he died in 2001, it's still open and you can visit it! It's called PARADISE GARDENS and is a 2.5 acre modern wonder in terms of artistic expression. GO SEE IT it's not that far from here. I went for the first time in 1995 and got to meet him, he was sitting in a rocking chair talking about Revelations and the end of the world or something like that. I honestly think that going there changed me as a person and has led to my haphazard style of throwing things together in hopes that they will work when it comes to making my zine.*




**FAVORITE TALKING HEADS SONGS IN ORDER:**

*The Big Country, The Girls Wants To Be With The Girls, Wild Wild Life, This Must Be The Place, Thank You For Sending Me An Angel, Sugar On My Tongue, Found A Job, Slippery People, Love - Building On Fire, What A Day That Was, Don't Worry About The Govt, Life During Wartime, Burning Down The House, Swamp, Crosseyed and Painless, Mind, Memories Can't Wait, Warning Sign, Artists Only, No Compassion, Pulled UP, Television Man, Blind, (Nothing But) Flowers, Heaven, Girlfriend Is Better, Take Me To The River*